Recd Dec 7
Ans Jan 15

Gabb

San Francisco Nov. 11th/67

Dr. George Engelmann
Dear Sir

Your letter of Oct 11th is received. I have such a bulk & weight of Cactus specimens that on consultation with Bolander we have concluded that it would not be advisable to send them by mail. I have taken preparatory steps to get my notes written up & hope within a week or two to put them in such a shape as to render them available to you. I propose to go East myself in Dec. reaching Philadelphia about the middle of January & will take them with me. If, about that time, you will write to me, addressing your letter to the care of the Phila. Academy of Nat. Sciences — giving me instructions how to send them, I will then forward them from Phila. You are laboring under a mistake about the number of species — The Flora of Lower Cal. in this family

comprises between 25 & 30 species of which I have specimens, though I fear that of some of the species, my material will not be sufficient for ~~desc. of~~ description, if they should prove new, though they will doubtless enable you to determine all of the old species. I have half a dozen species of Cereus, 2 gigantic forms & all large, besides at least 2 Echinocactus & numerous Mamillarias & Cylindropuntias. Of the ~~latter genus~~ Opuntia including the latter sub-genus, there are perhaps 6 to 10 species but the flat leaved or true Opuntias were not collected. I have notes however based principally on the fruit. Nevada yielded me half a dozen species also, including one Cylindropuntia in common with L. Cal. & one Opuntia without the larger spines, the minute ones being abundant,

This from L. Cal

I have also some material of a plant entirely unknown to our Cal. botanists, said to be allied to Bronnia, which I will send with some notes.

The other day I sent you, through Bolander a peculiar pine with notes.

Yours truly

W. M. Gabb

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
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Recd Febr 3d
Ansd same day

Philada Jan 29th /68

Dear Doctor

Yours of 15th is received. My specimens are all now in Philada. and at your service. I expect to remain here a number of months & know of nothing that will take me away in April. If you let me know a few days in advance when you will be here I shall make it a point to be on hand to meet you. Should I, by any accident be absent I will arrange so that you can find the cacti. I brought no other plants except a very curious Bronnia or Fouquiera of which I think I have already made mention. Conifers are very scarce except on the high Mts. Ephedra 1 sp- (antisyphilitica (?)) is found. If I remember, Brewer told me that was a conifer, though I should not have recognized its family characters.

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cm
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unassisted.

My Nevada Cacti are much better specimens than the L. Cal. and are all striking species. I feel anxious to go over them with you—

Yours truly
W. M. Gabb

Dr. Geo Engelmann
St Louis
Mo.

Wm Gabb

Recd Jan. 20th 1872
Ans Aug 21

Sto. Domingo Dec 30d/71

My dear Doctor Englemann

Your favor of Oct. 27 (?) was an agreeable surprise — I rec'd. it by last Steamer, which has sent a very lame hand, from a 'felon' on the right hand that I could not write.

I am glad if you have succeeded in getting any knowledge whatever out of the very scanty cactus collection I made in Lower Cal. & feel perfectly satisfied to leave the matter in your hands, being sure that your own judgement is the best guide as to whether you shall publish or not, from such scanty material.

You ask ~~me~~ what I have done in Botany the last 3 years — Nothing — I have noticed the Cacti with the following results — We have here

1 Columnar Cereus like "Pitahaya dulce" of L. Cal. about 10–20 ft high — limbs 3–4 inches diameter — fruit red-globular —
1 ditto smaller — fruit yellow without spines —
2 climbing Cereus — 1 with 3 ribs 1 inch diameter the other 4 & 5 ribs & 3/4 – 1/2 inch diameter —
1 ~~Echino~~ Melo cactus
1 ~~[illegible]~~ mammillaria
3 Opuntias certainly native & 1 perhaps introduced

Of the 1st 3 — one is arborescent & 20 ft high & one is of the group that approaches cylindropuntia

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cm
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Rec'd Jan 20th 1872
Ans Aug 24

Of these I have only 3 or 4 in my garden, but want to collect all – probably will one day – I have been all over the Republic & there are no other Cacti

Of Agaves we have 2 (natives) – The "Maguey" is very similar to one in S. Cal – a short, broad leaf, with large thorns on the edge, rather sparse – leaf with but few fibres – stalk 8–10 ft high, flower yellow – not antillarum (?)

The "Cabullo" is what you describe – ~~stalk~~ trunk 2–3 ft leaf – 3 to 8 ft long – 4 inches wide, no thorns on the side very fibrous – the fibre constituting 1/4 of the bulk – flower stalk 10–15 or even 18 ft high – no flowers!! Have seen it innumerable times – it never gives flowers or seed in Santo Domingo – propagates by means of green buds which are young plants & take root on reaching the ground – I have plants 2 ft high now, raised by myself from these buds, collected by myself! ~~The~~ Dr. Parry must have confounded the 2 native species – The Cabullo never flowers, the Maguey always.

Besides these 2 species we have the ordinary aloes plant

If you will give me the name of some consignee in N.Y. City – I will be happy to send you specimens of the above, & shall be always happy to hear from you – as ever

Very truly Yours
W. M. Gabb